

Parole News

Massachusetts Parole Board

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Parole Staff Recognize Domestic Violence Month

By Janice Dean

October was Domestic Violence Month and Parole's Victim Services Unit decided to conduct a cell phone collection campaign at the suggestion of Victim Service Coordinators Christine O'Connor and Erin Farrell. A box was placed in each of the Regional Field Offices and Central Office where the Coordinators covered them in purple paper and displayed information regarding domestic violence and the cell phone refurbishing program. Erin and VSC Dena Coffey created a bulletin board that highlighted headlines illustrating the serious nature of domestic violence. All thirty seven domestic related homicides in Mas-

sachusetts that occurred in 2007 were displayed signifying a need to recognize the prevalence of domestic violence in the Commonwealth.

Approximately seventy-five phones were collected across the state. These phones will be sorted, and those that have accessories, such as chargers, will be given to Verizon who will in turn refurbish and re-program them to dial 911. The phones will then be redistributed to area battered women's shelters to be given to victims of domestic violence. These refurbished phones may be used for contacting police in the event of an emergency.

Interstate Compact Advisory Council Meeting Held

By Patty Malone

On November 13, 2007, Massachusetts Parole, in conjunction with Massachusetts Probation, held the first meeting of the Interstate Compact on Adult Offender Supervision State Advisory Council. The governing statute requires the composition of the Advisory Council to include representatives of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government and victims' groups. In addition to those members, the Council membership includes representatives from the Massachusetts

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Chairman's Column

Parole Board Chairman Maureen Walsh



On October 26, 2007, myself and Donald Giacioppo attended the Massachusetts State Police Awards Ceremony which was held at the State House. Colonel Mark Delaney and Secretary of Public Safety Kevin Burke recognized troopers, officers, and civilians who have performed outstanding acts in furtherance of public safety.

Among the recipients honored was Parole Officer Bob Jackson of the Warrant & Apprehension Unit.

Parole Officer Jackson, along with the Southeastern Massachusetts Gang Task Force, received the Superintendent's Unit Citation for their exceptional contribution to public safety.

As many have been aware, PO Jackson had been specially assigned to work with the Southeastern Gang Task Force to investigate the criminal activities of the Latin King Street Gang in the greater New Bedford area. The group was able to identify the leadership of the gang and then investigated and conducted undercover drug buys over a period of several months.

As a result of this team investigation, on May 14, 2007, 160 law enforcement officials gathered in New Bedford and executed 37 warrants for individuals indicted for both federal and state charges. By the end of the day, 31 arrests had been effectuated and several more

followed in the days to come. More investigations and arrests also followed by the Southeastern Gang Task Force that resulted in safer streets in the New Bedford area.

As a result of PO Jackson's skill and work ethic, he involved other parole officers who were also active in the May 14, 2007 sweep in New Bedford. Parole played an integral part in these joint efforts to keep the community safe. It was a great day for the Agency for a professional like Bob Jackson to receive this award as he exemplifies the good work that parole officers do on a daily basis. I also want to recognize the efforts of many other parole officers in this agency that work with local, state, and federal law enforcement in order to maintain public safety in some of our most vulnerable communities. Please take the time to congratulate Bob on his award!

Parole Staff Assists with Turkey Distribution at the Greater Boston Food Bank in November, 2007



Pictured from left to right, Chris Foster, Kira Dunn, Cathy Grundstrom, Steve Kelly and Pearl Holder

Communicable Diseases Training

By Jay Talbot

On October 17, 2007, Maxine Garbo of the Division of Occupational Safety conducted two trainings in the Parole Board's central office on the topic of "Prevention of Blood Borne Diseases." The training provided an overview of the more common types of blood borne diseases, including hepatitis B, C, and HIV. An explanation of the symptoms one might see as a result of exposure as well as how these diseases can be transmitted was discussed. The two three-



hour sessions were well attended by field, institutional and central office staff who were also provided practical advice by Ms. Garbo on the precautions that should be taken when involved in situations where the risk of exposure is present. This training was a step in an overall plan to insure safety and minimize risk on the job. In addition, the agency is finalizing an updated policy regarding this issue which should be promulgated and distributed soon.

Interstate Compact Advisory Council Meeting Held

By Patty Malone

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Sheriffs' and District Attorneys' Associations, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Attorney General's Office, the State Police, and the Sex Offender Registry Board.

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to facilitate knowledge and awareness of the compact across constituencies important to the compact's success. The Advisory Council will assist in ensuring that Massachusetts remains in compliance with the requirements of the compact and provide assistance when intrastate issues arise under the compact. It is anticipated that the Council will meet twice yearly.

The meeting was held in the Supreme Judicial Court's conference room in the John Adams Courthouse in Boston. Parole Chairman Maureen E. Walsh and Probation Commissioner John O'Brien facilitated the meeting. Ann Clark, ICAOS Commissioner from South Carolina and Training Committee Chair, provided an overview of the compact and the Advisory Council's role in its implementation. Chairman Walsh explained the transfer process, highlighting the various rules that states must follow when seeking to transfer the supervision of an offender across state lines. Following the formal presentation, an active discussion ensued regarding new compact rules scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2008 concerning the interstate transfer of sex offenders.